



**2007 APPROPRIATIONS:**  
*Shortchanging America's Workers AGAIN!*

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## LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL: PROGRAM CUTS, FUNDING REDUCTIONS AND BROKEN PROMISES

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Median family income has fallen since the beginning of the Bush administration. Poverty is increasing, and job growth is not keeping pace with inflation. Yet, productivity is increasing and so are corporate profits – at the expense of America’s workers.

Instead of changing this trend, *the Republican Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill includes major cuts to key programs that help workers.*

### **Job Training**

At a time like this, there is no excuse for the majority in Congress to eviscerate proven job training and placement programs. Yet, the **House bill cuts Workforce Investment Act programs by \$431 million** - - \$325 million of which have already been disbursed to local communities, primarily from Dislocated Worker Funds used to help states respond to unexpected plant closings, layoffs and natural disasters.

The U.S. Employment Service, which matches jobless people to employers seeking workers, will be able to serve 5.5 million fewer people than it did in 2001.

**The bill also eliminates America’s Job Bank.** This free job listing service began in 1995. it helps not only job seekers who are willing to relocate for good-paying jobs, it helps smaller firms by giving them a national resume pool from which they can draw the best possible applicants. According to the website statistics on June 27, 2006, there were 1,895,610 jobs listed and 689,429 resumes available to employers.

### **Trade Adjustment Assistance**

This bill **cuts Trade Adjustment Assistance funding by \$27.8 million.** This funding helps workers displaced by trade policy through job training, income support, help searching for a new job, and help relocating.

*As increasing numbers of workers lose their jobs to trade and outsourcing, it seems like the worst possible time to cut programs intended to lighten pain for the victims of economic policy that erodes worker protections.*

## **International Labor Standards**

This bill also takes away the tools we need to prevent worker abuses abroad such as forced sweatshop labor and the worst forms of child labor. Competitiveness is also an issue here, as it is difficult for better-paid U.S. workers to compete for jobs against severely-underpaid foreign workers who enjoy no health care benefits. The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) is charged with building worker rights into trade and investment agreements. **Yet this bill cuts ILAB by 82% - from \$60.2 million to \$12 million.**

## **Workplace Safety**

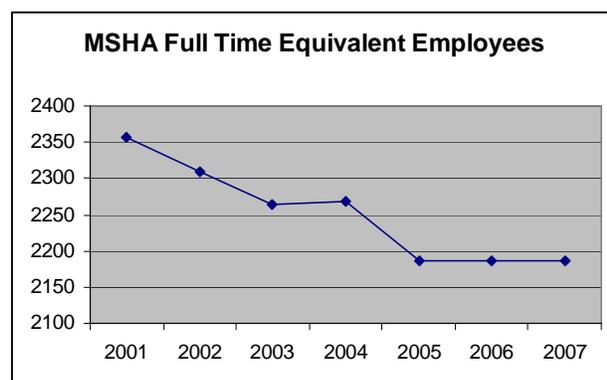
**This bill continues to cut Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) personnel, from 2,370 FTEs in FY 2001 to 2,165 in FY 2006.**

**This bill also cuts Susan Harwood training grants by half, to \$5 million.** These grants provide funding for safety training by unions and community-based groups. It is especially critical for immigrants and other vulnerable workers. *The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that worker deaths increased in 2004, for the first time in 10 years.*

Unbelievably, when safety for mineworkers is in the spotlight in light of unprecedented worker deaths this year, **the Committee recommends \$9 million less than the President requested for the Mine Health and Safety Administration.**

**The Committee also cuts coal mine enforcement \$2.1 million.** The President's budget request shows that the number of full time employees has fallen by 170 full time employees since 2001 – from 2,357 in 2001 to 2,187 today. Coal enforcement has fallen by 217 employees - from 1,233 full time positions in 2001 to 1,016 in this year's request.

*This year's request accounts for zero new full time equivalent employees at MSHA and a decrease of 27 full time equivalent positions for coal enforcement, and the Committee has decided that even that amount was too much.*



## **Worker Protections**

Finally, **this bill cuts enforcement of wage and hour laws by \$10 million.** This means more employers will get away with violating minimum wage and overtime requirements, forcing families to do with less money for more work.